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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

By Walker

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mrs. Cyndie Swafford of Dayton, Tennessee upon being selected National Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year for 2000.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, despite undergoing great difficulties, maintain a positive spirit of hope and gratitude; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mrs. Cyndie Swafford, who is an exemplary wife and mother and who serves as an inspiration to us all through the courage and fortitude she has exhibited throughout her ongoing battle with Multiple Sclerosis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work as Facilitator for the Rhea County Multiple Sclerosis Chapter, Cyndie Swafford is an inspiration and comfort to her family and an exemplary role model for her community; and

WHEREAS, formerly the 1999 Rhea County Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year, she was recently named the National Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year for 2000; and

WHEREAS, she has modestly said of this award, “I may be the name under the title National MS Mother, but I represent the more than 200,000 other MS mothers who are raising children under more difficult conditions”; and

WHEREAS, although she has pursued many interests, Mrs. Swafford’s major priorities are a commitment to Christ, family, and friends and service to her church and community; and

WHEREAS, she is a devout member of First United Methodist Church of Dayton, where she has faithfully served as a Sunday School Teacher, Chair and Co-Chair of many Vacation Bible School weeks, and Chair and Bookkeeper for the church’s Preschool Program; and

WHEREAS, for over fifteen years she volunteered at the Rhea County YMCA, serving as Board Treasurer, full-time Bookkeeper, Vice President, and President; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Swafford epitomizes the spirit and perseverance that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, she is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Sam Swafford, to whom she has been married for twenty-four years, and her three children, Lindsey, Morgan, and Blake; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swafford, Mayor of Dayton, President of First Bank of Tennessee, and Chair of Dayton City School Board, is devoted to her care, as are her children; Mr. Swafford and the children have each assumed different household responsibilities to assist Cyndie; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Swafford has said “I love the reassurance that this has added to my marriage because I know that my husband meant it when he said ‘in sickness and in health’”; and

WHEREAS, she is also greatly appreciative of her adopted son, YMCA Executive Director Bill Rush, who nominated her for the National MS Mother Award; Jeanne Brice and Glen Czarnecki, of the Southeast Tennessee/North Georgia Multiple Sclerosis Chapter; and her family for their ongoing support; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Cyndie Swafford for her bravery and positive attitude in the face of adversity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mrs. Cyndie Swafford upon being selected National Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year for 2000, salute her for the inspirational example she offers us, and wish her all the best.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.